

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/510,724
Reply to Office Action dated February 6, 2006

PATENT
450100-04947

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-6 have been amended and thereby obviate objections to the claims. No new matter is added by these amendments. Support for the amended recitations in the claims is found throughout the Specification, specifically on pages 27-31. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Applicants traverse the objection to the Specification. Applicants note that on pages 17-20 of the Specification, the relation of "loading portion 35" to Figure 6 is clearly explained.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

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Applicants submit that "load" and "loaded" are changed to "connect", and
"connected" respectively.

Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections are respectfully
requested.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over
U.S. Patent No. 5,877,488 to Klatt et al. (hereinafter, merely "Klatt"), in view of U.S. Patent No.
5,955,722 to Kurz et al. (hereinafter, merely "Kurz") and in further view of U.S. Patent No.
6,460,772 to Stahl (hereinafter, merely "Stahl"), U.S. Patent No. 5,785,541 to Best et al.
(hereinafter, merely "Best"), U.S. Patent No. 4,908,817 to Sandell et al. (hereinafter, merely
"Sandell") and U.S. Publication No. 2004/0002264 to Yao (hereinafter, merely "Yao").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An IC card adapter device for host electronic equipment comprising:

a device case connected with the host electronic equipment;

a loading portion provided at one side surface of the device case
adapted to connect the host electronic equipment; the host
electronic equipment including at least one semiconductor
integrated circuit element, and said host electronic equipment
including a first terminal;

a second terminal provided at the loading portion of the device
case, adapted for performing transmission/reception of data to the
first terminal;

an insertion/withdrawal opening provided at the other side surface
opposite to the one side surface of the device case;

cut portions respectively provided at the other side surface of the
device case, and serving to face toward the external surface,
wherein one of the cut portions is greater than the other serving to

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face a memorandum area of an IC card toward the external surface so that the memorandum area can be visually recognized in the state where the IC card is connected to the IC card adapter device;

a first insertion direction indication portion provided on the upper surface of the casing of the IC card adapter device to conform insertion direction into the insertion portion of the host equipment; and

a second insertion direction indication portion and an insertion attitude indication portion provided at the bottom surface of the casing of the IC card adapter device, said insertion attitude indication portion consisting of a model view of the IC card to prevent erroneous insertion of the IC card." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Klatt relates to a contacting unit for a card-shaped carrier element of electronic components in addition to the contact field at the edge of the contacting unit, with contact elements contacting a chip card which is inserted parallel into a slot-shaped insertion channel of the housing of the contacting unit. The insertion channel between a base plate of the housing is laterally open and has an insertion guide at the end of the contacting unit opposite the contact field.

As understood by Applicants, Kurz relates to a smart card reader having a rectangular plan configuration with a housing member secured together by sets of complementary overlapping tabs located at the four corners of the rectangle. Some sets include locator elements on one of the tabs of the sets for locating the overlapped tabs accurately relative to one another to assure accurate dimensions. The reader enables a smart card to be coupled to a host apparatus for the transfer of data between the smart card and the host apparatus.

As understood by Applicants, Stahl relates to a smart card reader built into a PCMCIA card that allows a space for additional functions to be included into the PCMCIA card. A support is formed between an upper section and a lower section at an opening forming a smart card slot. The limited insertion of the smart card and the location, of contacts for interfacing

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with the smart card in the upper section, creates space for other functions to be included, for example, a modem.

As understood by Applicants, Best relates to a tamper prevention and detection seal and method for ensuring that a clockspring is properly centered during installation. A seal is provided for indicating whether a clockspring has been tampered with. The seal is attached to the clockspring housing and hub. The seal may consist of a tamper indicating non-marking label stock and printed instructions for inspecting the seal.

As understood by Applicants, Sandell relates to cartridges for compact data information discs which are optically read and have a sliding door that is opened to permit reading of the disc. An optical data disc is enclosed in a protective cartridge including a pair of interlocking plastic shells and a two-piece sliding door is opened for exposing the disc during a read operation.

As understood by Applicants, Yao relates to a memory card interface adapter that converts a memory card with a STONE interface into a compact flash card (CF card) interface or a universal serial bus (USB) interface.

Applicants submit that Klatt, Kurz, Stahl, Best, Sandell and Yao, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an IC card adapter device for host electronic equipment comprising cut portions respectively provided at the other side surface of the device case, and serving to face toward the external surface, wherein one of the cut portions is greater than the other serving to face a memorandum area of an IC card toward the external surface so that the memorandum area can be visually recognized in the state where the IC card is connected to the IC card adapter device, as recited in claim 1.

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Furthermore, Applicants submit that not only does Klatt, Kurz, Stahl, Best, Sandell and Yao, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the claimed features, but the combination of Klatt, Kurz, Stahl, Best, Sandell and Yao is improper because it lacks motivation. Applicants submit that one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine card readers, as disclosed in Klatt Kurz and Stahl, with a clockspring tamper prevention and detection seal, as disclosed in Best, with a cartridge for optical data discs, as disclosed in Sandell, with a memory card interface adapter, as disclosed in Yao. Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Klatt, Kurz, Stahl, Best, Sandell and Yao is the result of improper hindsight using Applicant's claimed invention as a blueprint. Applicants also respectfully submit that picking and choosing particular features from divergent patents is improper and such a combination may not be used as a basis of rejection.

Therefore, for the above-stated reasons, Applicants submit that the combination of Klatt, Kurz, Stahl, Best, Sandell and Yao is improper and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the

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Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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